

THE PLEASURES OF LIFE.

BY J. J. VANDERREE.

To the dear ones of like precious faith that are scattered abroad greeting: I am undertaking a task that is indeed a hard one when I undertake to sum up the pleasures of life, for they are many and so many different kinds. Let us begin with the pleasures of youth. It is a pleasure to us to live in a country where we can have all the enjoyments that boys and girls can possess, the pleasures of home, of kind fathers, and kind mothers, and brothers, and sisters, kind associates to play with and romp around with, in our innocence. Then as we grow up to manhood and womanhood we still retain the pleasures of home, parents, and associates, and then we begin to either look for pleasures that leave a sting behind or a blessing. We may mention some of the pleasures that as a rule leave a sting behind. We take for instance the young man that begins to seek for pleasures in the cigar; he may enjoy the same for a season, but it soon creates an appetite for something stronger, consequently many have resorted to the wine cup, whiskey glass or the beer mug. Now I have noticed this in my time that, I never saw in my life nor have I talked with any one that ever saw, a man that was addicted to strong drink but what used tobacco in some form, there may be some but I do not know any, do you? Did you ever think of this before my good brother who is a slave to the habit? Do you see no danger in such pleasures as those, would and could you dare to set such an example before your son? When you know that it is your duty to raise him up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord only, and thereby by precept and example try to inculcate in him a character that will develop in him into a noble manhood before God and man. It is well for us to call a halt once in a while and examine ourselves and measure ourselves by the great standard of morality, the Holy Bible for this is the book that contains a perfect code of moral laws as well as religion. Then again comes the pleasures (as some say they are) of evil associates, who are continually drawing us away from the things that go to make up a noble manhood. Oh, that we as

parents were endowed with more courage to talk to our own children and explain to them the dangers there are in associating with the wicked. But in many cases a false modesty has taken hold of us and will not allow us even to warn our own children, whom we so dearly love, and who are so much dependent on a father's encouragement or a mother's advice, to even warn them of the dangers that surround their pathway, and let them go until their case becomes indeed alarming, then we cry and pray unto the Lord to arrest them in their wild career. Let us begin when we know there is yet hope by setting such examples before them and give them such words of advice and encouragements that will lead them to see that we have been with Jesus. Besides these we have the pleasure of earth, such as sunshine, rain, snow, health, and more or less wealth. These all have pleasures in them if we will only search them out and appreciate them when we get them, but then some people (even Christian people, some times) can see no pleasures in these things because they are always looking on the dark side.

But there are other pleasures which one can have that cannot be obtained from anything earthly for they are from God, and he gives them only in a true sense to those that will love and strictly obey him in all things. First we have the associations of kind Christian friends; we find them everywhere in the home, in the prayer meeting and other meetings in the church, and when we do meet with our loved ones in such places we are overcome many a time with a feeling of pleasure which would be difficult to express. We have pleasures of seeing poor lost souls come to the foot of the cross and there look up and receive mercy and pardon and it gives us great pleasure especially so if we ourselves were instrumental in bringing the wanderer home. It gives us also great pleasure, such as the world cannot give when we know that we are about our Master's business and are engaged in these things "with heart and soul," that are pleasing in his sight. But above all these there are yet the greatest in store for those who love God and obey his Gospel, they are the pleasures that have as yet not been revealed to

mortal man, for eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither has it ever entered into the heart of man the things which God has in store for those that love him, therefore cheer up you disconsolated ones and you that are isolated from his people for the time will soon come when we shall all stand before his judgment bar and receive sentence, if we will be so privileged that we will be able to hear the welcome voice of our Redeemer, "Come ye blessed of my Father inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world," we will be so filled with pleasure that we will have no time to think of the hardships endured for him here below but will go on and enjoy more and greater pleasures, for at God's right hand are to be found pleasures for evermore.

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NOTES FROM THE WATCHMAN.

BY T. J. NAIR.

"GOSSIP."

God's moral law commands "thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor." Exodus xx, 16.

Human codes are enforced regarding theft and murder and severe punishment inflicted upon the infractor, but murder of character and theft of reputation, perpetrated by the tongue and pen, pass with scarcely a word of condemnation. A man may be stabbed to death with a pen. The secrets of today are the curse of society. Bro A. has a secret, he tells it to B, and B, has a friend who has a few friends and so the secret goes, *ad infinitum*. A few years ago we were called to the pastorate of a church and among the first work we did was to inform the congregation that we had no secrets of our own hence could not keep one for any one else, and the result was we had but little trouble in our congregation.

It is said that in the arsenal at Venice there is still preserved a small golden key which bears the name of "The Key of Death," it is an instrument invented in the fifteenth Century by an Algeian named "Tebaldo," it hung at his girdle and while toying with it carelessly he would turn the handle, when a needle of exquisite fineness shot from it which would bury itself unfelt in the flesh of